

Kanegasaki Sister City Committee
Emergency Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2011
4:00 PM Senior Center Alice Dowd Lounge

Members Present: Amy Springer (Chair), Denise Boyd, Florence Boynton, Jule Dupre, Byron Koh (Secretary), Aaron Kropf, Helen MacMellon, Nancy Pagano, Yuko Takahashi

Others: Aaron Hayden (Select Board Liaison), Andrew Tinbai, Joan Snowdon

Members Absent: Bill Hutchinson, Stephanie Joyce, Kathy Woods Masalski

Purpose of this Emergency Meeting: to discuss plans to help Kanegasaki/Japan after the earthquake and tsunami

Amy's Remarks: Inquirers from the press, Amherst Club and Rotary to her show there is interest in helping Kanegasaki/Japan. Since the High School is already scheduled, she suggested using this date. We could help Kanegasaki organizations such as Life Long Learning or give funds to Japanese disaster relief.

Yuko's comments: Thanked the Committee for its interest in helping her nation. She said that Kanegasaki does not need much help, but that they would want our help to go to those on the coast.

Discussion

- The KSCC unanimously are committed to raising funds to help with disaster relief.
- Amy wanted a place and time for those concerned to gather, contribute, and help.
- Denise said that the Amherst students involved in the aborted visit were concerned and wanted to contribute. Since the week of March 21-25th is MCAS testing, Denise said that an extra week to prepare for a fundraiser would be preferable. Other Committee members also suggested that extending the planning period for an extra week or two would make it possible to do a better job. Amy and Aaron said that if we waited at all beyond March 26th that the community will lose interest and any fundraiser would be less successful. Some members said they had seen in the papers that the KSCC had already planned a fundraiser for March 26th and they wondered if they had missed the meeting where that decision had been made. Aaron said that he had told that to the media as he had been pressed for information on how the Amherst KSCC was going to respond to the disaster. He also mentioned that the Amherst Club and the Rotary Club were interested in helping, though no details were given.
- The KSCC therefore decided that what would have been the Farewell Dinner on Saturday, March 19 would be changed to a potluck fundraiser. Hopefully there would still be good participation in spite of having only one week to plan.
- Some of the tasks volunteered for included: Denise will organize a crane folding table, the families involved, and the event; Amy will do a press release and ask local restaurants to provide food; Aaron K. will organize video equipment to make a video of those present to communicate with Kanegasaki; Nancy will bring utensils, paper plates, etc.; Joan will contact those families involved in past exchanges; Nancy and Florence will handle the money collected.

NEXT MEETING: April 27, 2011 at 4 pm in the Alice Dowd Lounge

ADJOURNMENT: 5:20 PM

Respectfully Submitted: Byron Koh, Secretary with contributions from Nancy Pagano, Staff Liaison